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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the elections in Croatia issued by the European Union on 30 April 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 114 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the European Union on the elections in Croatia issued on 30 April 1997

The European Union has noted with satisfaction that local elections were held in Croatia on 13 April, and in particular that elections were held in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium on 13 and 14 April 1997, under the auspices of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES). It wishes to congratulate the Croatian authorities in this regard, as well as the Transitional Administrator, Mr. Klein, and the staff of UNTAES on having overcome organizational problems to see the elections through to a successful conclusion.

The high turnout at the polls shows that the local population in Eastern Slavonia has seized this chance of harmonious and mutually beneficial coexistence within Croatia. These local elections certainly form a firm basis for the peaceful reintegration of the region into Croatia. However, the European Union would point out that strict respect for human rights and for the rights of minorities throughout the country remains an essential prerequisite for the ultimate success of the reintegration process. The European Union will remain vigilant in this regard, as will the international community as a whole.

The European Union now calls on the parties to press ahead with the process of reintegration in a spirit of dialogue, openness, good faith and mutual understanding, in which endeavour they will be supported and supervised by the international community.